1946 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume LXII - Number 9 – September 2013

General Meeting
September 20, 2013
7:30pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
23 Carol Lane Lafayette
License Testing at 6:00pm

September Meeting Program	1
Officers and Appointees	2
California QSO Party	2
President's QTC	3
September Board Minutes	4
ARRL Letter - Morgan Fire	5
Morgan Fire Scanning	6
Ham Radio Outlet	7
Club Repeaters	8
Club Calendar	8





September 20 Meeting Program



Amateur Radio in the African Nation of Ghana

This month's meeting features Marcel Stieber with a fun photo-filled presentation about his recent volunteer work in West Africa. Marcel spent four months in Ghana working with Medicine on the Move, a nonprofit that uses light aviation to provide health education to rural villages. Marcel also activated his amateur radio license in Ghana as 9G5MS using his Yaesu FT-957D.
Changing lives, one flight at a time, www.Medicineonthemove.org .

- - David Schild, KK6CQX, Vice President

California QSO Party

ADMIT ONE

Here's Your Ticket To The Most Popular State QSO Party On The Planet!

October 5-6, 2013
1600 UTC Oct 5 to 2200 UTC Oct 6



Grab a CA QSO or County For That New Certificate!

LoTW Triple Play
USA Counties Award
Worked All States
Worked All California Counties

Great Prizes & Awards!

Complete Rules & Info:

www.cqp.org

Northern California Contest Club

NCCC

Excellence in Amateur Radio Contesting

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Jim Siemons, AF6PU
Vice President - David Schild, KK6CQX
Secretary – Steve Rogge, K6XZ
Treasurer - Bill Swindell K1LED

Technical Committee Chair
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU wa6jau@sbcglobal.net

Directors At Large
Dale McIntire, AD6HD Ron Luttringer, K6XC
Janice Fujii, KG6VTD Ray Gaschk, AG6SI

PACIFICON 2013
Acting Chair: Jim Siemons, AF6PU
Vice Chair: Trevor Hall, WA6JAU
Registration Chair: Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
Treasurer: Mike Patterson, N6JGA
Secretary: Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
Web Page: Chris Matthew, N7ICE

Membership Chair – Tom Deeble, KA6SIP
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org
Emergency Coordinator - Tom Kramer, WA6NYP

Public Information Officer - Gene Sylls, KG6EYE
Website - Marvin Miller, WA6GBW
Repeater Trustee - Jay Caldis, KT6Y
Education Chair - John Primus, AF6RJ af6rj@arrl.net
Youth Education - Steve Rogge, K6XZ
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Public Service - Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
Field Day Chairs - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE and Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan, AF6HQ
Refreshments: Elizabeth Styles KG6HLV
Holiday Dinner: Misa Siemons KJ6BUE
Annual Picnic - Lauren Styles, WA6CIE
The Carrier Newsletter
Editor, Matthew G. Vurek, N4DLA n4dla_cs245@yahoo.com
Copy Editor - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Amateur Television Help and Information:
John Schuler, W6DTV JOHNQRZ@aol.com

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN **FULL COLOR** AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:



PRESIDENT'S QTC

September has been another busy month for the Club, with two major events. First, as many of you know, we had a major fire on Mount Diablo. It started on the east side of North Peak. Our newly installed ATV repeaters and APRS digipeater was threatened by the flames. The fire advanced overnight from September 8 to September 9, and threatened our the communications towers, including all the rest our club's radio assets on the South Peak of Mount Diablo.

Good fortune was with us, and our gear seems to have survived the conflagration. We were just plain lucky, as many of our friends' radio systems were damaged or destroyed in the fire. Our systems on North Peak are not currently operating due to power, or lack there of. The transformer that supplies us arced and caught the building in which it is housed on fire. Additionally, about two dozen power poles burned on the hillside. We do not have generator power to our facilities on North Peak. We do on South Peak, and our gear is currently operating on generator power.

The site owner of North Peak is working towards providing us generator power to get our systems up and running. Until that occurs, we are down.

On a happier note, we are just about ready for Pacificon 2013! I am still asking each and every one of you to help out at Pacificon this year (www.pacificon.org). We need the help of every person in the Club. This is our big fund raiser, and allows us to keep our repeaters operating, maintained, insured, and occasionally replaced. Our club dues alone does not cover all the expenses of our operations. Additionally, the funds help with education programs that we continuously offer. Beyond all that, it is a lot of fun, and you might just learn something about radio!

Many folks still do not fully understand what Pacificon is...it is the premier amateur radio event on the West Coast. We offer superlative forum presentations on just about every ham topic that you could image and our programs rival or exceed what you might find at any other ham fest or convention. I hope to see you all there!



73,
Jim Siemons, AF6PU
President
Chair, PACIFICON 2013

Board Meeting September 3, 2013 Black Bear Diner

In attendance:
Jay Caldis, KT6Y, Ron Bunch, W4FEK, John Primus, AF6RJ, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Tom Kramer, WA6NYP, Janice Fujii, KG6VTD, Dale McIntire, AD6HD, Ray Gaschk, AG6SI, Jim Siemons, AF6PU

At 7:00 p.m., the meeting was called to order by the president, Jim Siemons.

The secretary, Steve Rogge, was not in attendance, and there were no minutes from the meeting in August submitted for approval.

President's report: It has been a busy month. Jim checked on the repeaters on Mt. Diablo. Pacificon is taking a lot of time. Sales are a bit lean, around 300, but there are only 6 or so vendor spaces left vacant.

Vice President's report: (given by Jim, in David's absence) The speaker for September is Marcelle, who will talk about the Ghana project. The speaker in February will talk about the history of the CCRA repeater. March's speaker will talk about the CARLA system. David would like the website information updated to indicate that he is now vice president.

No Treasurer's report, as Bill has gone to Europe. Jim did report for Bill that there was a duplicate on the tower insurance and it was therefore discontinued.

No Secretary's report.

Education and Training report, given by John Primus.
A new technician class has started. Thirty-four people have enrolled, but only about 17—18 are attending.

Technical Committee report, given by Trevor Hall. There has been no Technical Committee meeting since July. The digipeater on north peak went up right away with no problems, but is now working from a mag mount on the roof of the building. ATV is working fine, but with a few bugs. All other repeaters are fine.

Emergency Communications report, given by Tom Kramer.. There was a RACES exercise given on August 17th. Only about 30 people checked in for the exercise, which used HF/UHF and digital communication. No news on ARES.

Membership report, given by Jim Siemons.
Club membership is up by about 20 members to about 318. 85% of those have ARRL membership as well.

Public Service events are finished for the season.

Scholarship Committee report, given by John Primus.
John and Ron Luttringer are developing a general philosophy for the scholarship committee, and on how to serve the youth in our area. Various sources have been researched to assist them, and they are in the process of developing criteria for recruiting and selecting applicants for the scholarship funds. They want it to be an on-going process, and want to create a structure that others can follow in the future. They will create a brochure and/or flyer to use at Pacificon, and they will ask vendors for donations. John stated that he expects scholarship money to come from three sources: club money, individual donations and corporate donations. The target date is 2014-15, and they hope to have applications by March, and have funding in place by that time.

Jim Siemons suggested fund raisers for scholarship money, and Ron Bunch suggested approaching corporations, such as Chevron, for donations to the scholarship fund.

No old business.
No new business.

At 7:50 p.m., Jay Caldis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dale McIntire, and the meeting was adjourned.

ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™
The ARRL Letter
September 12, 2013
Public Service
Advocacy
Education
Technology
Membership

SATERN and Red Cross Volunteers Activated for Morgan Wildland Fire on Mount Diablo

The Contra Costa County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) went on standby alert and the Red Cross and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATURN) were reported to have been called out earlier this week in the wake of the so-called Morgan Fire in chaparral southeast of Clayton, California. The blaze, on the eastern flank of the north peak of Mount Diablo, put at least four Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) repeaters off the air on September 8.

"MDARC and SATERN work hand in hand on most activities from training and license courses to call outs," MDARC President Jim Siemons, AF6PU, said. "We have a memorandum of understanding between SATERN and MDARC for use of the W6CX repeater system during emergencies. That repeater system was directly threatened by the fire. For 24 hours W6CX repeaters were only taking emergency and priority traffic."

Repeaters taken down include the K6MDD D-STAR repeater, the W6UUU MotoTRBO repeater, the recently relocated W6CX APRS digipeater and the W6CX ATV repeater. Siemons says the condition of the equipment is unknown. The W6CX APRS digipeater was moved to the north peak of Mount Diablo after vandals toppled the communications tower on Rocky Ridge. "MDARC seems to have gone from the proverbial frying pan into the fire," Siemons said this week. The fire, under tinder dry conditions, grew rapidly and raced to the mountaintop.



Amateur Radio Tower containing K6BIV, K6MDD, W6UUU and other repeater and communication systems. The equipment in this container is off the air. The extent of damage will not be known until it is safe to physically assess the equipment. *(Robot camera photo via Tim Barrett, K6BIV)*

"In an amazing testament of the bravery and tactical skill of hundreds of firefighters, a minimum amount of damage was sustained to the five communications towers on North Peak," Siemons reported. "The worst [damage] was to what is referred to as the 'Amateur Radio tower.'" Mains power provided via Pacific Gas and Electric to Mount Diablo is down, and those with generators are operating via that mode." He said no one is predicting when power will be restored; approximately 25 power poles were consumed in the fire. By September 12, the fire was considered 80 percent contained. So far it has claimed some 3200 acres.

“Bottom line,” Siemons said, “hams live to deal with adversity and overcome problems. Whatever happens to our repeaters, we will fix or replace them. What is truly important is that no one gets injured and as little real property gets damaged as is possible.” The fire threatened residences and historical structures as well as other communications facilities in the area, and evacuations were in effect.

Members with VHF FM radios which could receive the public safety band were treated to several days of intense radio traffic on the airwaves. On Sunday afternoon September 8, 2013, a wildland fire broke out on the east slope of Mount Diablo near Morgan Territory Road and Clayton Road near the city of Clayton. Cal-Fire (formerly CDF) dubbed the incident the "Morgan Fire" and quickly deployed ground and air resources. The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Communications Support truck deployed to the staging area at the Camp Parks Armed Forces Reserve Training Center in Dublin.

16 miles to the west in Orinda, N4DLA monitored the following radio frequencies used during the firefighting efforts:

151.445 MHz Cal-Fire Morgan Hill Dispatch (repeater)

151.355 MHz Cal-Fire Command 1 (repeater)

151.160 MHz Cal-Fire Tac 1 (simplex)

151.325 MHz Cal Fire Tac 6 (simplex)

151.385 Cal-Fire Tac 9 (simplex)

151.310 MHz Cal Fire (Airtankers - simplex)



Smoke plume from the Morgan Fire as seen 16 miles to the west in Orinda on September 8, 2013 at 2:53pm. (N4DLA photo)

151.220 Cal-Fire (Helicopters - simplex) 122.575 MHz (AM) Airtankers (air to air)

122.925 MHz (AM) Helicopters (air to air)

Each branch of the fire seemed to be assigned a tactical channel while logistics and travel traffic were monitored on the Command 1 repeater. Other frequencies may have also been used but were not intercepted.

Thanks to the brave firefighters on the ground and in the air, no lives were lost and no residences were damaged. Power lines to North Peak were damaged but not the buildings which host the W6CX repeaters.



DC-10 Tanker 910 in action on September 9, 2013
Photo courtesy Claycord.com

ANAHEIM, CA
(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA
1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(877) 892-1748
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.
Magnolia between
S. Victory & Buena Vista
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA
2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(877) 892-1745
Nick, AK6DX, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(877) 520-9623
Jerry, N5MCJ, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA
510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(877) 892-1749
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE
(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Ken, N2OHD, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
delaware@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 765-4267
Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
John WØIG, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ
10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029
(602) 242-3515
(800) 559-7388
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
Corner of 43rd Ave. & Peoria
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBRIDGE, VA
(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr.
22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
virginia@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH
(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
Dave, N1EDU, Mgr.
Exit 1, I-93;
28 mi. No. of Boston
salem@hamradio.com

12 STORE BUYING POWER

HAM RADIO OUTLET®

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

World's LARGEST HAM RADIO INVENTORY in stock for quick delivery

KENWOOD



TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF TCVR

• 100W HF, 6M, 2M • 50W 70CM • 10W 1.2GHz w/ opt UT-20 module • Built-in TNC, DX packet cluster • IF Stage DSP • Backlit front key panel



TM-281A 2 Mtr Mobile

• 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio



TS-590S HF + 6M Transceiver

• 100W HF + 6M • 500 Hz & 2.7 KHz roofing filter • Built-in auto tuner • Best dynamic range in class • 32 bit DSP

TH-F6A 2M/220/440



• Dual channel receive • .1 - 1300 MHz (cell blocked) RX • FM, AM, SSB • 5W 2M/220/440 TX, FM • 435 Memories • Li-Ion Battery



TM-V71A 2M/440 Dual Band

• High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops

ICOM

IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver



• 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM • 2x DSP • Digital IF filters • Digital voice recorder • 2.5" color TFT display

ID-51A VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver



• 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52–1.71, 88–174, 380-479 MHz** • AM/FM/FM-N/WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible

D-STAR ready



IC-7600 All Mode Transceiver

• 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15khz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

• 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS) • CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories

Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

ID-880H



• D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeator) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver

D-STAR ready

YAESU

The radio



FTDX-3000 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

• 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP /Down Conversion 1st IF



FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

• 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

FT-60R 2M/440 5W HT



• Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

• 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in • 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift



FT-857D Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

• 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included • 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA residents add sales tax. Prices, specifications, descriptions, subject to change without notice.

Come visit us online via the Internet at http://www.hamradio.com

#1 in Customer Service

COAST TO COAST FREE SHIPPING
UPS - Most Items Over $100
Rapid Deliveries From The Store Nearest to You!



The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

FIRST CLASS

Affiliated Club



W6CX Nets

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 *offset plus 2.5 MHz*
https://stn3057.ip.irlp.net/status.html

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Output 1241.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: http://www.w6cxatv.net/live

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday
http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.3 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

September and October 2013 Club Calendar

Friday September 20, 2013	7:30pm	**MDARC General Meeting** *1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*
Saturday October 5, 2013	9:00 am	MDARC Technical Committee *Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg*
Monday October 7, 2013	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting *Black Bear Restaurant, 700 Bancroft Avenue, Walnut Creek*
Friday October 11, 2013 Through Sunday October 13, 2013		**PACIFICON** Marriott Hotel, 270 Mission College Blvd, *Santa Clara*
Friday October 18, 2013	7:30pm	MDARC General Meeting, *1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*